

I just saw an excellent piece of reporting on the Frontline program on PBS last night. It outlined the background and careers of both John Kerry and George Bush. I admit that I am a Kerry supporter, but I found its coverage of both candidates to be enlightening and balanced. I am sure that if I were a Bush supporter, I would have been similarly impressed. But we have a very different program being proposed by Sinclair Broadcasting.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.